

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WAHDC IMMEDIATE 5119

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 6897

FROM AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CU, TZ

SUBJECT: CUBANS IN TANZANIA

1. WHEN DEPT WAS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE US A LIST OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN WHICH THERE WERE CUBAN MILITARY, IT WAS MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THIS INFORMATION WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC. ITS RELEASE WAS INTENDED TO REINFORCE THE VERY STRONG POINT WHICH WASHINGTON AND WE WERE MAKING ABOUT SOVIET AND SURROGATE CUBAN FORCES BEING ENGAGED IN A SERIOUS EFFORT TO RECOLONIZE AFRICA.

2. WE NOW LEARN THAT ONE OF THE COUNTRIES WHOSE NAME WE WERE GIVEN -TANZANIA- IN FACT HAS NO CUBAN MILITARY AND THAT THE DEPT PROPOSES THAT WE APOLOGIZE TO PRES NYERERE.

3. TO DO SO CLEARLY WILL MAKE US A LAUGHING STOCK, AND WILL PUT INTO QUESTION NOT-ONLY THE INFORMATION WHICH WE HAVE PROVIDED IN THIS CASE BUT ALL SO-CALLED FACTUAL DATE WHICH WE MAY OFFER. INSTEAD, I ASK THAT WE DO NOTHING VIS-A VIS TANZANIA. IF WE ARE GOING TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT, NEXT TIME LET'S GET IT STRAIGHT THE FIRST TIME AROUND.
MOYNIHAN

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